ST MICHAEL'S C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER NO 20
www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk
Friday 23rd February 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back for the second half of our Spring Term. I hope you all had a wonderful half term break and are ready to embrace a bit of Spring sunshine.
It's been a packed week of sporting events with some great successes – please see below for Mr Day's sporting round-up.
I am delighted to introduce our new colleague in the office – Mrs Melanie Phipps. Mrs Phipps started with us this week and will be a great addition to our team. Please give her a warm welcome if you pop into the office.
Next week sees the long awaited visit from Jump Start Johnny! The school hall is going to be alive with Whoopla – look out for the photos in next week's Newsletter!
Please see the updated list of Dates for your Diaries which takes us up until the Easter holidays. Notable dates include Thursday 7th March – World Book Day. Please refer to the email of Thursday 22nd for further details.
The following week on Friday 15th March we will also be supporting Comic Relief. All children are invited to wear a hat for the day – the sillier the better! Please wear normal uniform, but wear any hat of your choice. Donations will be available to make via Parentpay.
May you all have a great weekend and as always, we will look forward to welcoming you back on Monday morning.

Best wishes
Mrs Fiona Phimester

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Wed 28th Feb – Jump Start Johnny
Fri 1st March – Year 6 Learning Fayre
Fri 1st March – Foundation trip to Tring Museum
Mon 4th March – Y5/6 Girls Football Tournament – MK Dons all day
Wed 6th March – Y 5/6 Dodgeball - Cottesloe
Thurs 7th March – World Book Day – Pyjamas and teddy
Fri 8th March – Foundation Stay & Play 9 – 9.45am
Wed 13th March – Y5/6 Girls Football – Waddesdon
Thurs 14th March – Swimming County Finals – Stoke Mandeville
Fri 15th March – Comic Relief Day
Fri 15th March – Year 3 Learning Fayre
Sat 16th March – Cross Country at Ascott House
Mon 18th March – Last Chess Club
Thurs 21st March – Echoes rehearsal in Aylesbury 9am
Fri 22nd March – Non uniform day in return for chocolate
Fri 22nd March – Year 3 Cake Sale

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Mon 25th March – EYFS / KS1 Awards
Tues 26th March – Year 4/5 morning performance
Tues 26th March – KS2 Awards
Wed 27th March – Y5/6 Handball – Kingsbrook
Wed 27th March – Year 4/5 Evening performance
Thurs 28th March – Church Service – 9.30am
Thurs 28th March – Chocolate Tombola at 3.30pm
Thurs 11th July – School Discos

UNIFORM

We are so proud of how smart our children look in their uniform and it's great to be able represent our school in the wider community when we are out and about.

We always strive to maintain high standards and on the odd occasion this can slip so please may I remind you of the following points from our uniform policy.

- Long hair should be tied back at all times. Any ribbons or hair bands should be royal or dark blue. Please avoid excessively large bows.
- No jewellery (except watches).
- The wearing of earrings is not allowed in school. If ears are recently pierced, can be taped over for P.E./Games/Swimming with micro pore tape supplied by parents.
- No radical/ extreme hairstyles.
- Pupils whose hairstyle is not appropriate will be asked to modify their hairstyle.
- No tattoo transfers.
- No excessive hair products.
- No nail polish – children will be asked to remove any nail polish in school.

Please use the link below for our full Uniform Policy.

https://www.st-michaels.bucks.sch.uk/docs/Policies/School_Uniform_Policy_Nov_2023.pdf

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH

As the season of Lent progresses many people will not just be giving something up but very often making room to take something else up in its place, or simply aiming to avoid distraction in order to focus on what is most important. With so much of huge concern and importance continuing to happen in the world at large at present, there is also a bigger picture to the purpose of a Lenten discipline. We pray at this time for all of those situations, both near and far, that urgently require careful attention to be paid, distractions to be avoided, and the right decisions to be made.

It is also with great sadness that we learned recently of the sudden and unexpected passing of our area bishop, the Rt Revd Alan Wilson, and our thoughts and prayers are very much with his family, friends and colleagues at this time.

With best wishes for the second half of term

Andrew Krauss

LETTER FROM MINISTER FOR SCHOOLS

We are lucky to have fabulous, hardworking teachers at St Michael's and so it's great to have our successes acknowledged by the Rt Hon Damian Hinds, Minister for Schools.

Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Mr David Morley
St Michael's Church of England Combined School
Bedfordshire
Chapel Square
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 0HA

08 January 2024

Dear Mr Morley,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 95 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at St Michael's Church of England Combined School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 5 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools

#together

Well done to Year 3 who achieved a fabulous 99% attendance this week. Congratulations to Miss Law and her class.

GOLDEN LEARNERS

Well done to these superstars for being this week's Golden Learners.

Foundation	**Arlo, Kingsley, Fern**
Year 1	**Phoebe, Stevie, Lily T**
Year 2	**Iris, Edwin, Tayler**
Year 3	**Maddie, Gabriel M, Flynn**
Year 4	**Sebastian, Tia, Luisa**
Year 5	**Noah, Freddie, Madi**
Year 6	**Emmie, Aisha, Chloe**

#together bell ringers this week – Well done!!

#together

MISS WILDMAN = MRS HOWLAND

Exciting times during our recent half term holiday when Miss Wildman celebrated her wedding day and became Mrs Howland. I'm sure you all join me in wishing her and her husband all the love and happiness as they embark on married life together.

CHESS CLUB NEWS

On Sunday 11th February the Northants Schools Chess Association County Championships took place at the prestigious venue of Stowe School.

Caspian and Cade from the school chess club entered the competition supported by their parents and Mrs McClellan.

Both boys behaved admirably throughout the day and played games against opponents of a similar level of skill from across the region, a tremendous learning experience for them both.

An unexpected bonus of the event was that Stowe School provided refreshments, free of charge throughout the whole day, to the children taking part and their relatives and friends. This helped to make the tournament a thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved.

There will be a similar competition later this year, which I hope more children from the Chess Club will enter.

I am pleased that the majority of the children who wanted to learn chess at the beginning of the term have remained in the club and will now be joined by former chess club members.

The beginners will now be able to play against stronger players and by learning from their mistakes, together with instruction, their game will improve. A beginner should not be disheartened by being beaten by a more experienced player who may have had several terms in the chess club. They should expect to lose more games than they win and not give up. They will get better! I have taught

children who in year 3 have lost nearly all of their games, but have ended up as School Champion in Year 6!
Next term all chess club members will be entered for the Delancey U.K. Schools Chess Challenge, the largest competition of its kind in the world, which provides pupils with the opportunity to compete against other children of a similar level from other schools.

B. McClellan

ST MICHAEL'S CELEBRATIONS

Congratulation to this Year 6 who has recently qualified for the Winter Triathlon Final which will take place in Grantham next month.
Lots of determined training led up to this point and we all wish you the very best of luck in the U11's shooting, swimming and running national championships in March.
Everyone at St Michael's is very proud of you.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
Join our Facebook Page - @friends&parentsofstmichaelsschoolstewkley
Or email us at – pta-stmichaels@outlook.com

In scrabble - 9 points
In school - priceless!

The Friends Association of St Michael's School needs more people

Anybody can be involved, but when everybody assumes that somebody else will do it nobody actually does...

Please email pta-stmichaels@outlook.com or speak to the office to get involved

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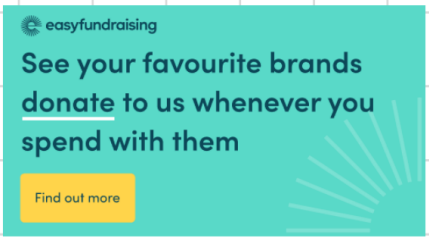
Raise Funds for the Friends

Sign up to easyfundraising



Join our Lottery

To play the lottery, go to: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for St Michael's or scan the QR code

- Cash prize every week
- Win up to £25,000!
- Tickets cost just £1 a week

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

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St.Michael's School Stewkley

LOST PROPERTY

Do either of these items belong to you?
Please come and collect from the office as soon as possible.

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The Friends Association of St Michael's School

Non Uniform Day

FRIDAY 22 MARCH

Please bring in a donation of
Easter Eggs or other chocolate for the
Easter Chocolate Tombola

Thank you for your support

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ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL SPORTS INFORMATION

As the evenings get brighter we are back in to full on football season again, so far we have 9 games and a tournament scheduled in the next 3 weeks! Please can we ask all football parents to wash and return kit as soon as possible. Please see below for our St Michael's week in sport……

Swanbourne 0-7 St Michael's Yr 5 (girls)

On Tuesday our amazing, tournament winning year 5 girls team travelled to Mursley to play Swanbourne. Most of the girls in the opposite team were taller than Mr Day and were nearly all year 6's. But our year 5's raced to a 3-0 lead before halftime and ended up winning seven nil! Rosie Turnbull scored an unbelievable 6 goals and Rosie Taylor got our other. Special mention to Gracie who hit every post and every defender and somehow didn't score, and to Carys who is getting better and better in goal.

St M – Rosie Ta (capt), Chloe, Willow, Layla, Gracie, Scarlett, Rosie Tu, Gracie, Carys

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Oak Green 0-2 St Michaels Yr 6 (boys)

On Wednesday our year 6 boys went to Aylesbury to play Oak Green. The pitch was one of the smallest we'd seen and because of the driving rain, it was decided that we would play 8 aside rather than 7, so that the subs weren't getting too wet! St Michaels went a goal up in the first half through man of the match Michael, who finished sharply inside the box. Almost constant pressure in the second half led to another goal from Given, who is becoming deadly with his head.

The year 6 boys are top of their league after 3 wins from 3 away games in Aylesbury.

St M – Seb (capt), Henry, Cameron, Michael, Tedd, Given, Kian, Harry, Jamie, Jake, Zak

Swimming

Wednesday morning saw our swimming team head to Stoke Mandeville for the 2024 Aylesbury Vale Swimming Tournament. After just missing out on progressing to the county finals last year, our team were determined to get some medals for the school. Each swimmer had to compete in backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle, relay and medley races. Individual wins from Poppy, Seb and Cameron meant that heading in to the relays, St Michael's were in first place. We managed to hold on to claim the gold medals and win the tournament. Well done to all involved, a great achievement, especially for those who had never competed before, we now move on to the County Finals in March.

Swim Team: Cameron, Cade, Abi, Chloe B, Seb, Poppy, Eddie, Madi

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GENERAL SCHOOL INFO

ABSENCE

If your child is absent for any reason, please contact the office via phone/email/ text prior to 9.15am. Please confirm on every consecutive day they will be absent, until they return. Please note: If we do not know the reason by 9.15am, a text will be sent to you and any unexplained absences will be reported as unauthorised.

If they have suffered from vomit or diarrhoea, please do not return your child until **48 hours** since their last episode.

Please also note that if your child is on a course of anti-biotics, we are able to administer the medication if they are prescribed 4 doses per day. The medication must be delivered to the office by a parent and a medical consent form completed before we can administer the anti-biotics.

SCHOOL DINNERS

School dinners can be ordered via Parent Pay.

The deadline for booking is a **Tuesday at midnight, 2 weeks in advance**. If you require a Special/Medical Diet Menu please contact the office.

If you need to cancel a school dinner after the deadline, you must give 48 hours' notice and call Chartwells on 01908 615705 or email creativekitchenadmin2@comp.

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BREAKFAST CLUB & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please book your sessions for Breakfast and After School Clubs via Parentpay before midnight on Thursday for the following week.

ATTENDANCE

Just to remind our parents if any child has an attendance rate of less than 92%, Mr Morley will be in contact with parents to make them aware of the situation with a view to improving the child's attendance at school which has a direct impact on their learning.

Our Attendance Policy states that all holiday related absence in term time will be recorded as 'Unauthorised'. From 1st September 2023, the school will be submitting this data to the local authority and Buckinghamshire Council will begin the process of issuing fines.